

Joel 2:28-32, Acts 2:1-4 - Pentecost Possibilities, 26/5/2013, am

- *Family service, a week late for Pentecost, immediately after 2013 General Assembly*

Church's Birthday

- *Wanted: cake, everlasting candles, source of power (lighter/matches), water to put candles out!*
– could only get normal candles & matches!!
- **What is the connections between a birthday (show cake), a source of power (lighter/match), a flame (light candle) and a breath of wind (blow candle out!)?**
- Ask question again
- Get guesses; keep blowing candle out at each guess
- Answer: they are all connected with today!

Pentecost:

- together with Christmas and Easter, is one of the church's three party days;
- birthday - celebrates birth of the world-wide church (c.1970 years old!);
- power - occasion when God gave the church power when the Holy Spirit came into the people who were the church;
- flame and wind - it would spoil the surprise of what happens in the Bible story if I told you too much!

(Try blowing candle out again...)

- Remarkable: lots and lots of birthdays, but same Holy Spirit who has been living and working in us ever since to give us the power to live in the way God wants us to!
(Try blowing candle out again...)
- He just won't go away!
(Try blowing candle out again...)
- Why not do something special - like joining in with the "Journey of Love" this afternoon, or having a treat, or doing something specially fun - to celebrate the fact that God the Holy Spirit is among us!!

Transformed

- Explain Shrek story line

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- someone will be transformed during the clip - who?
 - show first Shrek clip
 - How easy was it to spot the transformation?
 - Can you think of any transformations in your lives?
 - can share, or can tell your neighbour, or just keep to yourself!
 - (we'll think about them again later in the service)
 - We're a week late with the celebration, but 6 weeks after Jesus' rose from the dead the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost:
 - the Holy Spirit came and lives in everyone who is a Christian, transforming them beyond recognition...
 - we'll read and think about what happened more later in the service
 - *Lead into brief prayer, with particular thanks for transforming power of Spirit*
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Prayers of Intercession

- Inviting God to **transform** situations by the power of his **Spirit**:
 - for each situation, ask what kind of transformation God might want to make by his Spirit...
 - folk who don't know Jesus
 - folk who run the country
 - folk who don't have enough, perhaps food or water or medicine, especially in the developing world
 - folk who are unwell
 - folk who are serving God (who are they? Not just missionaries & ministers...)
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Pentecost

- Remind of Shrek clip
 - what made the transformation possible?
 - (in the story, a magic curse - this is the power behind the transformation)
- In the passage from Joel we read earlier:
 - who gets transformed?
 - what change or transformation happens?

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- what is the power behind the transformation?
- Recap the Acts story, with the three images (room, tongues fire, speaking to crowd)
 - who gets transformed?
 - what change or transformation happens?
 - what is the power behind the transformation?
- What about today?
 - show slides of people with tongues of fire on their heads!
 - Spirit transformed disciples from weak, scared, unsure timid to bold, brave, certain, and filled with power
 - they were able to heal, speak powerfully (both the bravery of their words and the effectiveness of their words), face persecution...
- If you are a Christian then the HS is living in you:
 - give out little cards as reminders
- And finish with second Shrek clip
 - after Shrek's kiss, Fiona is transformed again
 - but this time there is no outward change
 - inwardly, however, the curse is broken - she does not change night and day... she has taken "loves true form"
 - our transformation isn't visible on the outside like Fiona's human to ogre transformation in the film
 - but it is powerful, and settles our identity as belonging to Jesus, the one who loves us and has claimed us as his own